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do; wherefore very little has come of them, and very little is left of them; and now nobody knows what they were, save a few archæological old gentlemen who scratch in queer corners.

"But Epimetheus was a very slow fellow, certainly, and went among men for a clod, and a muff, and a milksop, and a slow coach and a bloke, and a boodle, and so forth. And very little he did for many years; but what he did he never had to do over again. Stupid old Epimetheus went working and grubbing on, always looking behind him to see what had happened, till he really learned to know now and then what would happen next, and understood so well which side his bread was buttered, and which way the cat jumped, that he began to make things which would work, and go on working too, till at last he grew as rich as a Jew and as fat as a farmer, and people thought twice before they meddled with him, but only once before they asked him to help them."

W. K. BROOKS.

APRIL 8, 1896.

#### THE RETINAL IMAGE ONCE MORE.

I REJOICE to learn, in the current number of SCIENCE (April 3, 1896, p. 517), that C. L. F. does not include me with the '*Medical Society in Philadelphia*,' and the '*Prominent Baltimore Physician*,' among those '*Distinguished Scientists who think there is anything which needs explanation in the fact that the image on the retina is inverted*;' but as I know no reason why the readers of SCIENCE should rejoice with me, I do not care to dwell on the matter.

W. K. BROOKS.

#### ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHAM BIOLOGY FROM AMERICA.

ALMOST exactly three years ago I contributed to SCIENCE\* a paper entitled 'On the Emergence of a Sham Biology in America.' In this article I found it necessary to criticise severely the condition of things in some of the leading American universities where courses in zoölogy were permitted to masquerade under the larger title of *Biology*. I protested vigorously against the educational deception which, in at least one important institution—where the official announce-

ment was made that only lack of funds prevented a proper development of botanical science—attempted to cover up this poverty by naming the courses in zoölogy courses in 'biology.' It was pointed out that much harm was done to true biological science by such ignoring of one-half of the science and professing that the moiety remaining was the whole.

Following this article of three years ago was a great outcry against my position from gentlemen professing to represent Johns Hopkins University and Columbia University in the columns of SCIENCE, but at the same time I received some half hundred letters of congratulation from both zoölogists and botanists, representing the leading institutions of the country from Harvard to California. In SCIENCE for May 26, 1893, I closed the discussion and waited for the outcome, for it was clear that attention to the matter had been excited.

Within a year Chicago University announced the withdrawal of its Department of Biology and the title of Dr. Whitman was changed from Head Professor of Biology to Head Professor of Zoölogy. Following this came the announcement of the creation of a Department of Botany at that institution, and one stronghold had fallen.

This year I learn that on March 2d the Trustees of Columbia University have changed the name of the Department of Biology to Department of Zoölogy, and have altered the titles of the staff to correspond. I am exceedingly gratified at this action which places Columbia upon the reasonable and honest basis. It now remains for the one important institution that is at the same time the greatest offender of all to awaken to its isolated and dishonest position and to cease sending out Doctors of Philosophy in Biology when the botanical work is still in the hands of a tutor and the preponderant stress is laid upon zoölogy. A full professorship of botany should be established at once, requiring no change in staff, but giving a fair recognition to both biological sciences and saving the institution from such spectacles as it had to witness three years ago when its 'biologists' stood up manfully for a sham biology that is now vanishing like mists in the morning.

CONWAY MACMILLAN.

\* SCIENCE, Old Series, 21: 184. 7 Ap., 1893.